

So I would, Madam Speaker, just remind the American people that we have grounded these laws in just and rational cause. And now Arizona has seen that the Federal Government has been unwilling to enforce the laws, and they are watching a crime rate that, if you look at the data over the last 10 years, has increased in almost every category over the last 10 years. In order to be objective, not probably to the extent that has been articulated by many of the pundits, but it has been a gradual and significant increase in the crime rates in Arizona in the areas of murder and rape, violent crime, and certainly about the only thing, except illegal border crossings, which have diminished marginally over the last couple of years.

And a year ago last August, there was a report that there were as many as 1½ million that have been in the United States illegally that reversed their travels and voluntarily deported themselves back to Mexico and points south. Most of that is attributable to the decline in the economy rather than the increase in enforcement.

But it doesn't mean that there has been a diminishment of illegal drugs coming across the border or a diminishment in illegal activity along the border. In fact, those numbers are up. The violence numbers are up. The illegal drugs are up. The contraband crossing the borders are up. And the numbers of just individual illegal people by interdiction data that's delivered to us by Janet Napolitano, the Secretary of Homeland Security, are marginally down.

Now, it may or may not be that there are more illegal border crossings. It might well be that they are just simply interdicting fewer coming across the border and there is less enforcement. Although I do believe that there are marginally fewer illegal border crossings but more illegal drugs, more violence, more kidnappings. The State of Arizona has the highest kidnap rate in the Nation. In fact, some of the cities there have the highest or second highest kidnap rate in the world. That's because of the drugs and it's because of the cartels that are doing business in that area.

So Arizona passed a law, and this law does a number of things. It sets up a situation where law enforcement—it requires all of the political subdivisions in Arizona, the counties, the cities, the other political subdivisions, and the State, to enforce Federal immigration law. It sets it up so that an individual has standing to sue the political subdivision, local government, if they fail to enforce immigration law. And it provides for reasonable suspicion for a law enforcement officer to pick up an individual that's out in public if they reasonably suspect that that individual is unlawfully present in the United States. Those are good things, and they are all that I have described within the parameters of existing Federal law today.

The argument that has been made and the demonstrations that are queued up for May 1, and that will be this coming Saturday, they are trying to establish demonstrations all over America of people rising up to demonstrate against Arizona's immigration law. Well, look at what has happened. The Federal Government hasn't enforced immigration law.

I would say that our immigration laws are true and just and right altogether. And our problem is not because our laws are wrong. Our problem is not because we need to replace broken laws. It's that we need to take this system that—"broken" is not the right word for it, I would say to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS). I think instead it's a system that is not being utilized because we lack the will to enforce immigration law in the United States. And that will has been diminishing over the years. The greater the number of illegals, the more people get to know their neighbors that may be in the United States illegally. They don't see that when you contribute to or allow or tolerate people who are unlawfully present in the United States in your neighborhood, when you hire them, you're contributing to the problem. People don't see that.

They just understand that we're all God's children. They like the people that came in. They see that they work hard, and so, therefore, they become their advocates. It's a natural thing to happen. But at the same time, while our laws are being broken and our laws are being disrespected, there's an undermining of the American system.

There's a reason that the people want to come to the United States. There isn't a country in the world where there aren't significant numbers of people that don't want to become Americans. And the reasons for that fall into a lot of categories, but one of them is we have respect for the rule of law. Our traditions honor the rule of law. Lady Justice is blind. When you think of the image of Lady Justice standing there blindfolded with the scales of justice balanced, without consideration for race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, or disability. That's the American creed.

We have equal justice for all, and justice is blind with regard to those characteristics. So people want to come here. They want to come to the United States from countries, countries that do not have that tradition of honoring the rule of law. They want to come to the United States from countries that have a corrupt tradition where you have to pay to play and it's who you know and how you pay them off or you curl up and you try to avoid the scrutiny of government and interactivity with the government agencies.

Here in this country, we're straight up, open, and honest, and, for the most part, moral and ethical, and we respect the law. But if we grant amnesty to 12 or 20 or more million people because

it's described as an insurmountable problem, that the argument that's often made that we can't deport 12 or 20 million people, in fact, we could. We could do that. It's not logistically impossible to do so.

I went over to London a little over a year ago to deal with the immigration issue over there. And I listened to them talk about the numbers of illegals that they have, and I have forgotten the exact number, but let's just say that we are in that 12 to 20 million category, and population ratio-wise, they are down in that 1½ million category, perhaps, of illegals in England. And what is their argument? You can't deport 1½ million people. It's too many. It's an impossible thing logistically.

Well, interestingly we're here with 12 to 20 million. We're making the same argument. Well, then, how many could we deport? If it's not 20 million and it's not 12 million and the British say they can't deport 1½ million, could we deport 1½ million if we chose to do that, or is it 1 million or ½ million or 100,000 or 10,000 or one? What is our capability logistically to deport people that are in the United States illegally?

And I will suggest that it's in direct proportion to our resources and our will to enforce the law. Our problem is not that we can't do so logistically. Our problem is we lack the will to do so from a moral standard because we're listening to both sides of this argument. The argument that people are here, that they just want to work. They want to earn for their families. And for the most part, that's true. And we disregard the argument that is this point that I need to make, Madam Speaker, and that is that 90 percent of the illegal drugs consumed in the United States of America come from or through Mexico, 90 percent. It's a consistent number that comes from the Drug Enforcement Agency, and it's been consistent throughout several years.

□ 2030

And the illegal drug distribution chains in America, magically, and this is a Drug Enforcement Agency response, magically if every one of the people that are in the United States illegally, magically tomorrow morning woke up in their home country where they were legal to live and reside, if that happened by magic wand overnight, there is at least one link in every illegal drug distribution chain in America that would be severed because at least one link has an illegal alien that's part of that drug distribution chain.

And so if it was in our endeavor to shut off the illegal drug distribution in America, we would simply make sure we enforced our immigration laws. And that would be a very temporary fix, and it might only last for hours or days, not much longer than weeks and perhaps not months, but it would sever the distribution of all illegal drugs in America, however temporarily that might be.